



STREET

The officers of the 1953 Ruckman Reunion take pleasure in presenting to you "Ruckman Sketches", a brief history of the David L. Ruckman family and some of the descendants. It was written in the hope that it might, at least in some small way, help us have a better knowledge and appreciation of our Ruckman ancestry, and perhaps be a beginning for a more extensive history.

We wish to thank those who helped, in any way, in this work.

WISHING A HAPPY REUNION TO EACH OF YOU!!

The officers of the Ruckman Reunion (1953)



# RUCKMAN SKETCHES THE REUNION

June, 1953

1

The first Ruckman Reunion was held Sunday, July 3, 1932. The event was to commemorate the time when, one hundred years earlier, the David Little Ruckman family moved to Pocahontas County in what is now West Virginia. They came from Highland County, Virginia.

The reunion was at J. R. Ruckman's (now C. E. Goo's) near Mill Point, and quite near the log house into which David Little Ruckman and his wife Priscilla moved when they came in 1832. At the time of the first reunion the house was standing and still used as a dwelling. The age of the house was not known other than that it was already built when the Ruckmans bought the estate from a family by the name of Cochran. Therefore, it was at least a hundred or more years old at the time of the reunion.

The idea of having a Ruckman Reunion apparently began with Miss Maggie Ruckman, and was brought to a reality by her, J. R. Ruckman, and other interested persons. There were ninety-two people at this first reunion. The weather was excellent for the outdoor picnic, and for taking pictures. Those present decided that it should become an annual affair, and to have it near the first of July each year. This has been carried out rather faithfully except during World War II. The meetings have been as follows:

1. 1932 - At J. R. Ruckman's home, Mill Point, W. Va.
2. 1933 - At D. E. Ruckman's home, " " "
3. 1934 - At Mrs. Hannah Ruckman's home, Clintonville, W. Va.
4. 1935 - At W. O. Ruckman's home, Mill Point, W. Va.
5. 1936 - At Rev. A. C. Ruckman's home, *Leivary*, W. Va.
6. 1937 - White Sulphur Springs on the U. S. Fish Hatchery grounds.
7. 1938 - Droop Mountain Battle Field. (One of the largest groups - 159).
8. 1939 - Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park
9. 1940 - Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park
10. 1941 - Droop Mountain - - (Voted as the permanent meeting place)
11. 1942 - Droop Mountain - - (June 22, due to gasoline rationing, etc.)  
" (Reunion not held in 1943; 1944; 1945; 1946; 1947; 1948)
12. 1949 - Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park
13. 1950 - " " " " "
14. 1951 - " " " " "
15. 1952 - " " " " "
16. 1953 - " " " " "

Each of the information above and following is from  
Historical Sketches of Pocahontas County, West Virginia - William T. Price  
"The above records" - as recorded by the various secretaries of the reunion.

These sketches were prepared by  
William T. Price, Secretary of the  
Ruckman Reunion, in 1953 and located in  
the Pocahontas County Historical Society.  
He died in 1941. His son, William T. Price,  
now lives in the same house in  
Clintonville, W. Va. where he was born.

As usual we will be in the market for wool and skin.

## IN MEMORIAM

Must be a dream that they have gone away,  
 Those who brought us hope, comfort, and cheer;  
 But awaken, for the torch they have left,  
 We too must hold high without waver nor fear.

1. Jack Neff - about 1933
2. Otho W. Ruckman - July 7, 1937
3. Miss Julia Ann Ruckman - April 16, 1938 (Age 97 years)
4. Robert Slaven - November 24, 1938
5. Dvner B. Boggs - March 26, 1939
6. J. Henry Overholt - about 1941
7. Mrs Hannah V. Ruckman - June 3, 1943
8. Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Moore - June 19, 1944
9. Mrs. Mary (Mollie) L. Ruckman - August 8, 1944
10. Elba Callison - January 6, 1946
11. Miss Maggie Ruckman - February 26, 1946
12. Richard Callison - May 19, 1946
13. James Renick Ruckman - November 4, 1947
14. Mrs. Elisa Jane Ruckman - April 16, 1949
15. Mrs. Everette Ruckman - January 18, 1950
16. J. F. Anderson - May 19, 1950
17. Miss Ollie Neff - August \_\_, 1950
18. Mrs. Lee V. Ruckman - December 9, 1950
19. Mrs. Ruth Ruckman Smith - April 20, 1951
20. David Early Ruckman - July 20, 1951
21. A. M. Smith - March 31, 1952
22. Gary Krodel - May \_\_, 1952 (age 4 years)

The above list was taken from the secretary's book, "Ruckman Records", but it probably is not complete.



It is not known, apparently, whether the Huckmans lived in England for any length of time, or if they left relatives in that country. Some think that from the nature of the name that they may have come from the mainland of Europe. Anyway, the ancestry has been traced to a SAMUEL HUCKMAN, a native of England, who was born in 1643. "The Huckmans had lived awhile in northeast Wales, bordering England, and thence came to Long Island, New York, in 1682. THOMAS HUCKMAN, son of Samuel Huckman, the Welsh emigrant, was born on Long Island in 1682, and his son JAMES HUCKMAN, another link in the ancestral chain was born in New Jersey in 1716. James Huckman's son, DAVID HUCKMAN (1747-1822) was also born in New Jersey in 1747. David Huckman is the progenitor of the Huckman relationship in Highland and Pocahontas Counties. He came to what is now southeast Highland County, Virginia, and settled in lower Jack Creek Valley, about 1784."

David Huckman married a New Jersey wife whose name was Susannah Little (1757-1843). She seems to have been a woman of high aspirations and longed for something much better than she could get in New Jersey. The story is well known about her thinking that ~~the~~ earthen floors in *Virginia* were of mosaic work, such as princes might have. When she reached the place of their destination and found that ~~earthen~~ floors really meant, she was so disappointed that she would have liked to return at once.

David and Susannah Huckman were the parents of four sons and <sup>4</sup>daughters: Elizabeth, Sophia, Mary, and Hannah; Samuel, John, James, and DAVID LITTLE HUCKMAN. David Huckman (Father of David L.) died July 11, 1822, and was buried near his Virginia home. Susannah survived and came to Pocahontas with their son David L.

(The purpose of this writing is to trace some of the David Little Huckman history. However, it may be well to mention that his eldest brother, Samuel, had descendants in Pocahontas County also. Samuel's oldest son, John Hartman Huckman, (1810- ?) moved to Pocahontas about 1845 and lived near Mill Point, but later built a fine residence (now the home of Ernest Pyles) on the Greenbrier River opposite the Stamping Creek Junction. In 1863 he sold his possessions in Pocahontas County and moved to Georgia, where he died a few years later. The children of John H. Huckman were: Caroline (Mrs. Wm. J. Cockley); Sydney; Charles; Samuel; James A., and three who died in childhood were: William Patrick, David Newton; and Polly Ann. It is said that the Huckman Cemetery, near Mill Point was started when John H. Huckman buried one of his children there. He apparently was then living on an opposite hill and the grave could be seen from his house.)

(Further information about the brothers and sisters (underlined names) of David L. Huckman is: Samuel married Nancy Hartman and their children were John H.; Mary (Mrs. Isaac Cook); and Nancy (Mrs. Wm. W. Cook). Samuel Huckman's second wife was

Margaret Slaven, of Pocahontas County, and their children were: James; Elizabeth (Mrs. John F. Ervine); Asa; and David V. Ruckman. David Glendye<sup>e</sup> Ruckman was a son of this Col. David V. Ruckman. John and Mary went to Ohio, and James settled in Illinois. One sister married John Gun, and she was the mother of Mrs. Samuel Harper, and Mrs. Martha Clager, both of Pocahontas County.)

(It should be remembered that quite likely there were brothers (and sisters) of some of the earlier Ruckmans in the United States, who probably have descendants of whom we have no record. Also there could have been other Ruckman immigrants to the United States besides Samuel Ruckman.)

(Many of the dates below are for reference only, and may be ignored otherwise)

DAVID L. RUCKMAN (1795-1845) was born on Back Creek March 6, 1795. On June 22, 1820, he married Priscilla Wade (1799-1859) of Highland County. "She was a very superior person in all the relations of life." They moved to Pocahontas County in 1832, to what is now known as the Marvin Chapel Community near Mill Point. However, most of their children were born in Highland County, according to the date of their births. David L. Ruckman is described as a tall and wiry person, who was quick and nervous in his movements, and usually rode in a rapid trot. As Constable of the Levels District he usually got what he went after, as he always meant business. He died May 5, 1845.

David L. Ruckman, his wife Priscilla, and his mother Susannah are buried in the McNeil Cemetery, near Hillsboro and Mill Point. It is regrettable that the Ruckman Reunion organization did not carry out the plans to place markers at their graves, at a time when those were living who knew more definitely where the graves are located.

The SONS and DAUGHTERS (underlined names) of DAVID L. and PRISCILLA RUCKMAN were:

1. Charles Ruckman (1821-1872), the eldest son, was a scholar, teacher, and minister. He married (1841) Rachel Griffin, and they had a daughter and son named Julia Ann and Leonidas. Two sons, Jonathan and Morgan, died in childhood. Charles moved to Ohio, and old letters from there show that he did not approve of the secession of the Southern States, or his brothers' part and sacrifices in the Civil War. In the latter days of his life he became a rheumatic invalid. There are no living descendants of his now.

2. Samuel Ruckman (1822-1837), the second son, died at the age of 15 years.

3. John Wade Ruckman (1824-1899), the third son, was eight years old when the family moved to Pocahontas County. Col. John W. Ruckman married (1846) Margaret Ann Moore (1824-1877) and they lived on a part of the old homestead near the family home. Their first child, a daughter, died in infancy. Their son, Mathews Ruckman (1855-1911) married (1881) Mary (Mollie) Lillie Hogsett (1863-1944), and their children are Frederick W., and Edna (Mrs. L. G. McClure).

(Other historical dates of the period:

About the winter of 1790-91 — Stephen Sewell lived in a cave near Ruckman home site.

About 1779 — John McNeil, first permanent settler in Pocahontas, settled in the Levels.

About 1794 — Bridger Boys killed not far distant from the Ruckman home site, in the

last Indian raid in what is now Pocahontas County.

Nov. 6, 1863 — Battle of Droop Mountain.

Nov. 24, 1878 — Marvin Chapel Church dedicated.

(Pocahontas County was formed in 1831; and West Virginia became a state in 1863)).

the plantation now owned by Fred  
Huckman. He died in 1841. His  
wife was Priscilla Wade Ruckman.  
He was born in 1795.

As usual we will be in the mar-  
ket to buy your wool and gin-

4. James Watts Ruckman (1825-1864), the fourth son, lived on the old homestead. He first married (1852) Caroline Bruffey of near Green Bank. They had one son, William Wallace Ruckman (1853-1910), who married (1879) Elisabeth Patton. Wallace Ruckman had three children; Mary Margaret (Maggie, 1880-1946); David Early (1882-1951); and Nancy (Mrs. A. E. Boblett). James W. Ruckman's second wife (1855) was Caroline Arbogast, also of near Green Bank. Their children were: Millard Fillmore (1857-1914); Nancy Priscilla (Mrs. Winfield Slaven, 1859-1930); James Renick (1861-1947); and Otho Watts Ruckman (1864-1937). All four members of this last family were married and have descendants. James W. Ruckman was a Confederate soldier. He was captured near Edray in 1864, and sent to Fort Delaware. Later he was sent to Richmond for exchange, but died before leaving there. Later, his body was brought back and buried in the Ruckman Cemetery.

5. Clarissa Ruckman (1827-1876) married (1857) Peter M. Overholt. Their sons were Henry and Rollin Overholt. Three other children died while young.

6. Mary Ruckman (1829-1901) married (1862) Jacob F. Cackley. No children were born to this union.

7. Otho Wade Ruckman (1831-1921) was the fifth son of David L., and a twin to Catherine. He first married (1858) Martha McClung. Their sons and daughters (names with asterisk) were: \* Otho David Ruckman (1859-1927), who married Hannah Hoff, and they lived and reared their family at Clintonville, W. Va; \* Ella (Mrs. Levi Waugh) and one of her daughters, Mattie Waugh, married William Clower; \* Mary (Mrs. Jack Neff); and \* Rev. Andrew C. Ruckman, who lives at Leivasy, W. Va.

Otho Wade Ruckman's second marriage (1875) was to Phoebe Kincaid Hagan. His third (1881) wife was Mary Frances Twyman; and his fourth (1904) wife was Rachel Friel.

8. Catherine Wade Ruckman (1831-1870) and Otho were twins. She married (1853) Peter McNeil and their sons and daughters (names with asterisk) were: \* Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. John S. Moore, 1855-1944); \* Emma D. (Mrs. Jacob Harper), who is the only living member of this family, now being 96 years old; \* Virginia Priscilla, a twin to Emma (Emmaline), died when small; \* David; \* Price; \* Matthew; and \* Fannie (Mrs. Floyd Rogers). There are several descendants from various members of this family.

9. David Bird Ruckman (1839-1863) seems to have been a favorite son and brother. He was a Confederate soldier, and was mortally wounded in the Battle of Morristown, Tenn. He was buried somewhere in that area.

Only in legend and in fancy can we again catch a glimpse of the David L. Ruckman family. When they were all at home there must have been "a heap o' livin'" in the old house — the big house ceiled inside with pine lumber, and with its massive fireplaces and chimneys. The huge outside doors that could be barred against any intruder, and the tiny upstairs windows were reminiscent of days when Indian raids were possible. (at that time there was a chimney at each end of the house, and the addition to the house had not been built.) It is said that a date cut into a stone of a chimney was evidence that the house was built sometime before 1800.

There was always the making of maple sugar in the early spring, at the sugar camp farther up the valley near where W. O. Ruckman now lives. In spite of pleasant memories of "stirring off" warm sugar in their childhood days, it was an important task as it

was the only source of their sugar supply for all purposes. They must have been a

As usual we will be in the market to buy your wool and gin-  
send, will pay the market prices



may family with the responsibilities of a large estate. There were sheep to furnish wool for their homemade clothes; many horses for work, transportation, and possibly for trading and selling; and herds of cattle which, besides furnishing milk, were the chief source of income.

We do not know much about their schooling but they seemed to have been educated, for their time. The older ones probably started to school in Highland County. After coming to Pocahontas they may have attended the old schoolhouse said to have stood on the hill in the vicinity of McNeel's barn. Apparently after John H. Ruckman came, the log schoolhouse was built near the site of the Ruckman Cemetery. Before it was burned during the Civil War, some of the younger members of the Ruckman family probably attended school there, and the family undoubtedly attended church services in the same building. Some of the boys could have gone to school at Green Bank as it is known that some of John H. Ruckman's sons went there. Also, it should be remembered that there was a school at Hillsboro, and that the Little Levels Academy was established there in 1842.

The members of the David L. Ruckman family ~~surely~~ had their fun, their hopes, ambitions, disappointments, fears; and yes, at the time of the Civil War, there must have been many heartaches. As is ever true these people have left, to each succeeding generation, the privilege and responsibility of living in this great country of ours — the new country to which, in 1682, Samuel Ruckman came seeking a home.

THE END

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In addition to the sources of information shown on page one, there have been some records available which were written by Maggie Ruckman, J. R. Ruckman, and Mrs. Alamo Ruckman. Also, some oral information was gotten from various persons.

(Mention should have been made on page one that Otho H. Ruckman was quite active in promoting the first Ruckman Reunion.)



- 1 Elizabeth Ruckman married a Mr Givens and went west.
- 2 Sophia Ruckman married John Gums and was the mother of the late Mrs Margaret Harper of Knaps Creek the late George Ginger of Huntsville was a grandson of John & Sophia Gums.
- 3 Mary Ruckman married James Blawen and went to Ohio and left 1 child.
- 4 Hannah Ruckman married Timothy Holcomb and settled on Stamping Creek and then went west, Sore Road one daughter Mrs Susan Reynolds and a number of other children.

David and Susanna Ruckman who came from New Jersey to what is now Highland county Va. Had 10 children 6 boys and 4 girls 2 sons died in infancy David & Johnath. They raised 4 sons & 4 daughters namely Samuel who lived in Highland and married Nancy Hartman & Margaret Slaven daughter of John Slaven head of Greenbrier. Samuel Ruckman was the father of John H. Nancy Wade, Mary Gurn (by first wife) David V. James, Acie, Elizabeth Crvine.

2 John Ruckman went to Ohio when a young man married there and had a son Abiga.

3 James Ruckman went to Ill. and married Margaret Bonnet - had a son James and a daughter.

4 David Little Ruckman married Priscilla Wade - came from Highland is the fore father of all the Ruckmans in the Little Levels dis

"The Old House"

— the

Cochran - Ruckman

House — said to have  
been built before  
1800

— near Mill Point



Pocahontas in 1832 and located on the plantation now owned by Fred Ruckman. He died in 1841. His wife was Priscilla Wade, daughter of Otho Wade. She died in 1860.

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Samuel died, aged fifteen years. The third son was Colonel John Wade Ruckman. His wife was Margaret Ann Moore. Their son Mathew married Margaret Hogsett, who lives at the homestead with her son Fred.

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Clarissa became the wife of Peter Overholt; Catherine, Mrs. Peter McNeill. Her daughter is Mrs. John S. Moore, of Marlinton.

David, Jr., the youngest son, was a Confederate soldier and fell mortally wounded at Morristown, Tennessee.

The rain during the early morning of June 19th, didn't discourage the descendants of

Whether or not all should be banished from the side may be a matter of time. That they must be ever, and that they quately taxed, can already the virtual use of outdoor signs scenic beauty of many country, and in place imperiled the safe movement. Moreover, billboards use of the highways, they would be valuable pay for the privilege of the intelligencer.

#### Private Distribution

The business of carrying a government monopoly of the distribution of mail is in violation of the provisions of the act according to an announcement at the Charleston post office department.

The statement, issued by the nature of W. Irving, assistant postmaster, follows:

"The department has received numerous reports that the increase in postal rates and companies make deliveries under a piece work basis of statements, etc., for the purpose of increasing the business of the private postal service."

"As the private postal service (sections 1256-1271, regulations) give to the government the monopoly of carrying letters by the methods of handling is in violation of the provisions of the act."

"All postmasters and employees of the department are directed to refuse to accept or deliver mail by the private postal service."





6/30/32

## THE RUCKMANS

The Ruckman family will hold a reunion at the home of James Renick Ruckman at the old homestead, near Millpoint, on Sunday, July 3, 1932. This is eminently fit and proper, for their ancestor, David Little Ruckman, came to the plantation just one hundred years ago this year.

The family trace their descent from one Samuel Ruckman, a native of England, born in 1643. He lived awhile in northeast Wales. He brought his family to Long Island, New York, in 1582. That same year he had a son, Thomas, born on Long Island. The next link in the ancestral chain is James, son of Thomas, born in New Jersey, in 1716. Then comes David, son of James, born in New Jersey in 1747.

This David was the progenitor of the Ruckman relationship in Highland and Pocahontas counties. He came to what is now southeast Highland about 1784, settling in Back Creek valley, near Bethel Church, Mill Gap postoffice. His wife was Susanna Little, of New Jersey. She came to Pocahontas one hundred years ago with her son, David, and died about 1845, at an advanced age. I feel sure that my father knew her, as he was fifteen years old when she died. Anyway he records the following interesting recollection of her.

"Mrs. Ruckman was a woman of high aspirations and longed for something far better than...

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"Mrs. Ruckman was a woman of high aspirations and longed for something far better than she could get in New Jersey. Marvelous accounts seemed to have been reported about the beauty, wealth and happiness of southern homes. That in Virginia people lived in houses with earthen floors, discarding the use of wood. She seemed to have gathered from this that floors were of mosaic work, such as princes have about their houses in the old country. Upon reaching the place of destination, and finding what earthen floors meant on on the Virginia frontier, her disappointment was so intense that she wished to return at once; but circumstances were such that this was impossible. So the situation was accepted, went to work, and a home was reared out of the Virginia forest."

David and Susannah were the parents of four sons and four daughters: Samuel, John, James and David Little; Elizabeth, Sophia, Mary and Hannah.

Samuel's first wife was Nancy Hartman, and his second Margaret Siaven, both of Pocahontas County.

John went to Ohio and James settled in Illinois; Mary went with her brother to Ohio; Elizabeth became the wife of John Gum. I find no record of Sophia and Hannah.

sual amount of cash in offices, stores, homes. There is the great injury and loss to hold-up, loss by the incentive to undeposited cash, amount of credit farmer and business community is dependent of funds deposited operation of the banks, upon burden of collection for this tax.

## HOW ONE S

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Commenting method the H says:

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proportions of a high Tennessee legislature session imposed a billboard of \$100, and authorized municipalities to charge. It applies alike to all small.

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"It is not expected the fee will produce much is regarded as virtuous. In most instances, have been erected the fee the companies them rather than pa persists in this policy well free itself in the board nuisance, for ures will deteriorate would be subject to

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Wade Ruckman first married

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